

Public Notice – Environmental Project

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in Arlington, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

November 20, 2012 to December 14, 2012

TYPE OF RESPONSE:

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing the proposed expansion of Arlington Cemetery to determine whether the project would be consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCP) established pursuant to the federal Coastal Zone Management Act. The VCP seeks to protect the quality of air, water, and other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:

U.S. Department of Defense: Department of the Army, Army Corps of Engineers

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Army Corps of Engineers, in association with Arlington National Cemetery and the National Park Service, proposes to expand the Cemetery by 27 acres, consisting of Section 29 of the existing Cemetery and picnic grounds of Joint Base Fort Myer-Henderson Hall. The site includes Arlington Woods, which is associated with the Custis-Lee Mansion and Arlington House. It also includes a stone wall dating from the 1870s, which marks the boundary of current and historical areas of the Cemetery. A small stream crosses the site. Arlington Woods and the stream would be protected; the wall would be de-constructed and moved along McNair Road, as part of the Perimeter Columbarium Wall. The purpose of the project is to address anticipated burial space needs, in light of the protected date of 2025, by which the Cemetery will reach its capacity. The project will provide approximately 32,000 new interment sites, two assembly areas including a shelter, water fountains, and infrastructure for electrical, electronic, and plumbing needs. Note: the Corps intends to publish an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this same project later in December.

The Corps of Engineers states that the proposed project is consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Resources Management Program.

HOW TO COMMENT:

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax, or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project document at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS, AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Name: Charles H. Ellis III
DEQ Central Office
Office of Environmental Impact Review
629 East Main Street, Room 633
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Phone: (804) 698-4195
Fax: (804) 698-4319
E-mail: charles.ellis@deq.virginia.gov